



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

San Antonio, Texas 78296

February 23, 1993

VERNON HOWELL,
ALSO KNOWN AS (AKA)
DAVID KORESH
INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE AND SLAVERY

Davidian

VERNON HOWELL is the present leader and prophet of an organization known as the Branch Dividend, 7th Day Adventists, located at Mount (Mt) Carmel, near Waco, Texas. HOWELL also uses the name DAVID KORESH and is known by that name by the individuals living at Mt. Carmel. From the mid-1950's through 1978, the group was headed by an individual by the name of BENJAMIN RHODEN and his wife, LOIS. In 1978, RHODEN died and his wife was the sole leader until 1986. In 1986, LOIS RHODEN passed away and her son, GEORGE RHODEN, and VERNON HOWELL became the co-leaders of the organization.

Shortly after GEORGE RHODEN and HOWELL were appointed as the leaders, HOWELL was accused of raping RHODEN's mother. RHODEN dismissed VERNON HOWELL and several of his followers and renamed the land the organization was living on as Rhodenville. HOWELL and several of the residents that were dismissed, attempted to reclaim their land and were involved in a shoot-out with the McLennan County Sheriff's Office. Presently, GEORGE RHODEN is incarcerated for murder and HOWELL is the sole leader at Mt. Carmel.

Allegations were received by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the Spring of 1992, that HOWELL (also known as DAVID KORESH) may have been planning a mass suicide event at Mt. Carmel. Also, allegations were received that HOWELL may be holding members of the Sect under conditions which may constitute violations of the Federal laws pertaining to involuntary servitude and slavery.

VERNON HOWELL

On March 17, 1992, a complaint was received by the Office of the United States Representative FRED UPTON, St. Joseph, Michigan. The complaint alleged allegations similar to those previously received as well as child molestation charges regarding HOWELL. Due to the allegations made, several other agencies were advised by the FBI of the status at Mt. Carmel. These agencies included the Department of Human Services, Child Protective Services, Department of Public Safety Intelligence Division, Internal Revenue Service, McLennan County Sheriff's Office, and the Department of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

Investigative reports were received from Child Protective Services, reporting the results of unannounced visits and interviews at the Mt. Carmel compound. Investigation continued during the time frame for which the mass suicide was to take place, during the Spring of 1992. To date, no further information has been developed by the San Antonio Division of the FBI to substantiate the accuracy of the reports concerning any potential acts of violence/self-destruction by members and/or leaders of this religious sect. Those law enforcement agencies also notified of the circumstances involving Mt. Carmel have not filed charges as of February 1993. Close liaison is maintained by the FBI with each affected agency to ensure close monitoring of this situation as it may pertain to any potential federal violations of the law.

Due to the receipt of a duplicate letter forwarded to Congressman CHET EDWARDS Office, Waco, Texas, which was previously in the possession of Congressman FRED UPTON, St. Joseph, Michigan, all appropriate local and federal law enforcement agencies have been re-notified.

Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Internal Routing/Action Slip

TO	ROOM	NAME/TITLE	TO	ROOM	NAME/TITLE
	7162	The Director		7240	Inspector in Charge
	7142	Deputy Director		7240	Mr. Mandigo (Acting) Inspector - Deputy Chief
				7240	Congressional Affairs Office
	7110	Assoc. Deputy Director - Adm.		7222	Media Services Unit
	7116	Assoc. Deputy Director - Inv.		7867	Special Productions Unit
				M-956	Tour Office
	7176	Director's Secretary			
	7176	Director's Special Assistant		7270	Mr. Knapp Inspector - Deputy Chief
		(Attn:)		6236	Correspondence Unit
				7262	Publications Unit
	7901	Office of EEO Affairs		7350	Research Unit
	7443	Office of Liaison & Intl. Aff.		7654	Special Events Unit
				7278	Speech Unit
	11255	Identification Division			
Quantico		Training Division		7156	Career Board
	6012	Administrative Services Div.		6437	Information Desk
	5829	Information Management Div.		18327	Mail Room
	4026	Intelligence Division		71907	Payroll
	5012	Criminal Investigative Div.		6912	Personnel Records
	3090	Laboratory Division		6248	Reading Room
	7159	Technical Services Division		6248	Reading Room (Autopen)
	7427	Legal Counsel Division		7262	Voucher Unit
	7125	Inspection Division			
	11861	Criminal Justice Information			
		Services Division			

7240 [REDACTED] b7C

2) 4913 Information Processing - Pto. Procure
ASAP
File & index as appropriate.

☐ Call Me
☐ See Me
☐ Approp. Action
☐ Initial
☐ Per Inquiry
☐ For Your Info.
☐ Note & Return
☐ Record & Return
☐ See Reverse Side

FROM [REDACTED]
Office of Public Information

This is for
 [REDACTED]
 W. Campbell
 CC: [REDACTED]

Room [REDACTED] Phone [REDACTED] Date [REDACTED]

b7C

EX-11244

% C.I.D. to [REDACTED]
this is made for file

but should
Branch Divident
in LHM be changed to
Davidian ??

4/20

b7c

Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Internal Routing/Action Slip

TO	ROOM	NAME/TITLE	TO	ROOM	NAME/TITLE
	7162	The Director		7240	Inspector in Charge
	7142	Deputy Director		7240	Mr. Mandigo - (Acting) Inspector - Deputy Chief
				7240	Congressional Affairs Office
	7110	Assoc. Deputy Director - Adm.		7222	Media Services Unit
	7116	Assoc. Deputy Director - Inv.		7867	Special Productions Unit
				N-956	Tour Office
	7176	Director's Secretary			
	7176	Director's Special Assistant (Attn: [redacted])	/	7270	Mr. Knapp - Inspector
			/	6236	Correspondence Unit
				7262	Publishing Unit
	7901	Office of EEO Affairs		7350	Research Unit
	7443	Office of Liaison & Intl. Aff.		7654	Special Events Unit
				7278	Speeches Unit
	11255	Identification Division			[redacted]
Quantico		Training Division		7156	Career Center
	6012	Administrative Services Div.		6427	Information Desk
	5829	Information Management Div.		19327	Hall Room
	4026	Intelligence Division		1907	Payroll
	5012	Criminal Investigative Div.		6912	Personnel Records
	3090	Laboratory Division		6248	Reading Room
	7159	Technical Services Division		6248	Reading Room (Antepen)
	7427	Legal Counsel Division		6262	Voucher Unit
	7125	Inspection Division			
	11861	Criminal Justice Information Services Division			
To		Quetzmas & Smith & Linder			
Rd		[redacted] 170,			

<input type="checkbox"/> Call Me	<input type="checkbox"/> For Your Info
<input type="checkbox"/> See Me	<input type="checkbox"/> Note & Return
<input type="checkbox"/> Approp. Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Record & Return
<input type="checkbox"/> Initial	<input type="checkbox"/> See Reverse Side
<input type="checkbox"/> Per Inquiry	

FROM [Signature] Regional Affairs

Remarks: Copy hand Came to CDS 3/1/76		
Room	Phone	Date
301		3/1/76

[illegible]

- FROM**

Office of Public and Congressional Affairs

EX

Please index
w/ correct
spelling:

BRANCH DAVIDIAN

Thanks

b7C

Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts

Subject: DAVID KORESH / BEFORE WACO

File Number: 63-0-113357X, X1, X2



Federal Bureau of Investigation

DONALD W. RIEGLE, JR.
MICHIGAN

COMMITTEES:
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS: Chairman
FINANCE
BUDGET

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2201

April 21, 1992

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Congressional Affairs Office
10th and Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20535
Attention: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

MISCELLANEOUS NON SURVIVOR

b7c

I am writing you on behalf of my constituent, [REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED] has contacted my office with his concerns regarding the activities of a religious cult in Texas known as the Branch Davidian Seventh Day Adventists. My Staff Assistant, [REDACTED] has faxed to you a letter detailing [REDACTED] concerns as well as a statement given by [REDACTED]

Would you please give this matter your attention and consideration and provide my regional office listed below with your findings.

Thank you for your prompt assistance in this matter.

ENCLOSURE

Sincerely,

63-0-113357X

Donald W. Riegle, Jr.
Donald W. Riegle, Jr.

Central Regional Office
705 Washington Square Bldg.
109 West Michigan Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933

Interim sent
to Sen Riegle
4-24-92
GMO

Final Reply to Hon. Riegle
dated 6/10/92. HVI 1
BHM/jur

MICHIGAN REGIONAL OFFICES

WAYNE-MONROE
1155 Brewery Park Blvd.
Suite 343
Detroit, MI 48207

SOUTHEASTERN
Century Center Bldg., 3d Floor
30800 Van Dyke
Warren, MI 48093

EASTERN
Suite 910
352 S. Saginaw Street
Flint, MI 48902

CENTRAL
705 Washington Square Bldg.
109 W. Michigan Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933

WESTERN
Suite 718 Federal Bldg.
110 Michigan Ave., N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

NORTHERN-LOWER
308 Front Street
Traverse City, MI 49686

UPPER PENINSULA
Room 223
209 E. Washington
Marquette, MI 49855

b7C

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES
SENATOR DONALD W. RIEGLE, JR.
109 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, SUITE 705
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933
(517) 377- [REDACTED]

b7C

DATE: 20 April 1992

TO:

[REDACTED]

b7C

FROM:

[REDACTED]

1

RE: Allegation against religious cult

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 13

COMMENTS/INSTRUCTIONS:

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET13

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☒ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☒ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of _____

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

63-0-113357X Pages 3-15 (Texas Department of Human Services)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X for this page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 5/12/92

TO

: DIRECTOR, FBI

(ATTN: SSA [REDACTED] OPA, b7C
 ROOM 6220, FBIHQ)

FROM

SAC, SAN ANTONIO (163C-SA-37281) (P)

SUBJECT

~~BRANCH DAVIDIAN SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS~~
 CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY
 SENATOR DONALD W. RIEGLE, JR.

MISCELLANEOUS NON-SUBVERSIVE
 Re Bureau facsimile to San Antonio, 5/11/92.

Enclosed for the Bureau are copies of sixteen (16) pages from San Antonio file #100-6-16869 concerning the activities of captioned organization.

For the further information of the Bureau, San Antonio is currently investigating the possibility that the leader of the organization, VERNON HOWELL, aka David Koresh, may have been planning a mass murder-suicide event. Also, allegations have been received that HOWELL has been holding members of the sect under conditions which may constitute violations of the federal laws pertaining to involuntary servitude and slavery. This particular investigation is based upon a complaint originally received by the office of United States Representative FRED UPTON, St. Joseph, Michigan. A review of the nature of the allegations contained in the letter to Congressman UPTON indicates that they are essentially identical to those contained in the correspondence received by Senator RIEGLE. To date, no further information has been developed by San Antonio to verify the accuracy of the reports concerning any potential acts of violence/self-destruction by members and/or leaders of this religious sect.

ENCLOSURE

2-Bureau (Encl. 16)
 2-San Antonio 163C-SA-37281

BRG/brg

BBS (4) BBS

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

(Number) (Time)

163C-SA-37281
BRG:brg

Results of this investigation, under San Antonio file #163C-SA-37281 (initial allegation received from authorities in Australia), will be furnished to the Bureau upon completion.

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET7

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒

Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☒

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

63-0-113357X1- Pages 2, 3, 5, 7-10

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X for this page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX



FBI FACSIMILE
COVERSHEET

CLASSIFICATION

PRECEDENCE

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

☐ Top Secret
☐ Secret
☐ Confidential
☒ Sensitive
☐ Unclassified

Time Transmitted: _____

Sender's Initials: _____

Number of Pages: _____

FBIHQ - CORRESPONDENCE UNIT
(Name of Office)

Date: 5-22-77

[Redacted]
(Name) (Room) (Telephone No.)

b7C

FBI - DETROIT
(Name of Office)

Subject: Inquiry RE Branch Davidson
Seventh Day Adventist from
Senator Phil Riegle

Handling Instructions: p/s hand carry to [Redacted]

Sender's Name: [Redacted]

Telephone: _____

Sender's Facsimile: _____

WJ/PRC

6-11-77
12:10 PM

Index Search Slip
FD-160 (Rev. 7-23-89)

To: Office Services Manager

Date 5/22/92

Requested by: _____

Ext. _____ Squad: _____ File No. _____

Social Security Account # _____

Subject Vernon W. Howell

Aliases aka: David Koresh

Address _____ Birth Date _____ Birth Place _____ Race _____ Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female

<input type="checkbox"/> Exact Spelling	<input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal Case Files Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Restrict Locality of _____
<input type="checkbox"/> All References	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal References Only	
<input type="checkbox"/> Main Security Case Files Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Main Security (If no Main, list all Security References)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Security References Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)	
<input type="checkbox"/> General Indices: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS	<input type="checkbox"/> FBI: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS	
Searched by _____ Date _____	Searched by _____ Date _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Confidential Indices: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS	<input type="checkbox"/> OCIS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS	
Searched by _____ Date _____	Searched by _____ Date _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> ELSUR Indices: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS	<input type="checkbox"/> INS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS	
Searched by _____ Date _____	Searched by _____ Date _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> FORMS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS	<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS	
Searched by _____ Date _____	Searched by _____ Date _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> GLOBAL: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS	<input type="checkbox"/> REGIONAL: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS	
Searched by _____ Date _____	Searched by _____ Date _____	

Place an "X" by the Field Office(s) to Query for Regional Searches.

Northeast	Mid-Atlantic	Central	Western
<input type="checkbox"/> Albany	<input type="checkbox"/> Atlanta	<input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo	<input type="checkbox"/> Albuquerque
<input type="checkbox"/> Bern Switzerland	<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore	<input type="checkbox"/> Chicago	<input type="checkbox"/> Anchorage
<input type="checkbox"/> Bonn Germany	<input type="checkbox"/> Birmingham	<input type="checkbox"/> Cincinnati	<input type="checkbox"/> Butte
<input type="checkbox"/> Boston	<input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleveland	<input type="checkbox"/> Honolulu
<input type="checkbox"/> London England	<input type="checkbox"/> Jackson	<input type="checkbox"/> Dallas	<input type="checkbox"/> Las Vegas
<input type="checkbox"/> Mexico City Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville	<input type="checkbox"/> Denver	<input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles
<input type="checkbox"/> New York City	<input type="checkbox"/> Knoxville	<input type="checkbox"/> Detroit	<input type="checkbox"/> Phoenix
<input type="checkbox"/> Newark	<input type="checkbox"/> Memphis	<input type="checkbox"/> El Paso	<input type="checkbox"/> Portland
<input type="checkbox"/> Paris France	<input type="checkbox"/> Miami	<input type="checkbox"/> Houston	<input type="checkbox"/> Sacramento
<input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile	<input type="checkbox"/> Indianapolis	<input type="checkbox"/> Salt Lake City
<input type="checkbox"/> Rome Italy		<input type="checkbox"/> Kansas City	<input type="checkbox"/> San Diego
<input type="checkbox"/> All above		<input type="checkbox"/> All above	<input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco
			<input type="checkbox"/> Seattle
			<input type="checkbox"/> All above

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
<u>50Z-1-36 p.2 (2-92)</u>			

Consolidated by _____

Reviewed by _____

File Review Symbols

Index Search Slip
FD-160 (Rev. 7-28-89)

To: Office Services Manager

Date

5/22/92

Requested by:

Ext.

Squad:

File No.

Subject **Branch Seventh Day Adventists**

Social Security Account #

Aliases

Address

Birth Date

Birth Place

Race

Sex

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exact Spelling | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal Case Files Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Restrict Locality of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All References | <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal References Only | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Main Security Case Files Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Security (If no Main, list all Security References) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Security References Only | <input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References) | |

☐ General Indices: ☐ NEG ☐ POS☐ ISS: ☐ NEG ☐ POS

Searched by _____ Date _____

Searched by _____ Date _____

☐ Confidential Indices: ☐ NEG ☐ POS☐ OCS: ☐ NEG ☐ POS

Searched by _____ Date _____

Searched by _____ Date _____

☐ ELSUR Indices: ☐ NEG ☐ POS☐ IS: ☐ NEG ☐ POS

Searched by _____ Date _____

Searched by _____ Date _____

☐ FOIMB: ☐ NEG ☐ POS☐ MICRO: ☐ NEG ☐ POS

Searched by _____ Date _____

Searched by _____ Date _____

☐ GLOBAL: ☐ NEG ☐ POS☐ REGIONAL: ☐ NEG ☐ POS

Searched by _____ Date _____

Searched by _____ Date _____

Place an "X" by the Field Office(s) to Query for Regional Searches.

Northeast

Mid-Atlantic

Central

Western

- ☐ Albany
- ☐ Bern Switzerland
- ☐ Bonn Germany
- ☐ Boston
- ☐ London, England
- ☐ Mexico City Mexico
- ☐ New York City
- ☐ Newark
- ☐ Paris France
- ☐ Philadelphia
- ☐ Rome Italy
- ☐ All above

- ☐ Atlanta
- ☐ Baltimore
- ☐ Birmingham
- ☐ Charlotte
- ☐ Jackson
- ☐ Jacksonville
- ☐ Knoxville
- ☐ Memphis
- ☐ Miami
- ☐ Mobile
- ☐ New Orleans
- ☐ Norfolk
- ☐ Quantico
- ☐ Richmond
- ☐ San Juan
- ☐ Savannah
- ☐ Tampa
- ☐ Washington Field
- ☐ All above

- ☐ Buffalo
- ☐ Chicago
- ☐ Cincinnati
- ☐ Cleveland
- ☐ Dallas
- ☐ Denver
- ☐ Detroit
- ☐ El Paso
- ☐ Houston
- ☐ Indianapolis
- ☐ Kansas City
- ☐ Little Rock
- ☐ Louisville
- ☐ Milwaukee
- ☐ Minneapolis
- ☐ Oklahoma City
- ☐ Omaha
- ☐ Pittsburgh
- ☐ San Antonio
- ☐ Springfield
- ☐ St. Louis
- ☐ All above

- ☐ Albuquerque
- ☐ Anchorage
- ☐ Butte
- ☐ Honolulu
- ☐ Las Vegas
- ☐ Los Angeles
- ☐ Phoenix
- ☐ Portland
- ☐ Sacramento
- ☐ Salt Lake City
- ☐ San Diego
- ☐ San Francisco
- ☐ Seattle
- ☐ All above

File & Serial Number

Remarks

File & Serial Number

Remarks

Consolidated by

Date

Reviewed by

Date

I - Identical
NI - Not identical

File Review Symbols

2 - Not identifiable
U - Unavailable reference

June 10, 1992

Honorable Donald W. Riegler, Jr.
United States Senator
705 Washington Square Building
109 West Michigan Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator Riegler:

This is in further response to your April 21st communication on behalf of Mr. [REDACTED]. Mr. [REDACTED] has contacted you regarding the Branch Davidian Seventh Day Adventists, a group he described as being a religious cult. We certainly appreciate Mr. [REDACTED] concern in furnishing you a copy of the statement of a former member of this group.

We have furnished this information to our San Antonio Office for appropriate law enforcement attention. FBI and Department of Justice policy precludes confirming or denying the existence of an investigation; therefore, we will not be able to furnish reports on what action we might take in this matter.

Thank you for your interest, and please assure Mr. [REDACTED] that this matter will receive appropriate attention.

Sincerely yours,

Danny O. Coulson
Deputy Assistant Director
Criminal Investigative Division

MAILED 2
JUN 12 1992

1 - Detroit - Enclosures (6)
1DD Adm. Refac 5/22/92 from PLA [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] OPA.
1DD Inv. 1 - San Antonio (163C-SA-37281, 100-0-16869) - Enclosures (6)
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs. Reurairtel 5/12/92 and Bucal 6/5/92 from [REDACTED]
Crim. Inv. OPA, to PLA [REDACTED]
Ident. 1 - Mr. Coulson
Info. Mgnt. 1 - Mr. [REDACTED] (Room 5214)
Insp. 1 - Mr. [REDACTED]
Intell. 1 - Congressional Affairs Office
Lab. 1 -
Legal Coun.
Tech. Servs.
Training BHM:rfy (10)
Cong. Affs. Off.
Off. of EEO
Off. of Public Affs.
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

Honorable Donald W. Riegler, Jr.

NOTE: Senator Riegler wrote on behalf of [REDACTED] had sent him a copy of a statement made by [REDACTED] a former member of the BRANCH DAVIDIAN SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS. [REDACTED] recently won a child custody battle based on his former wife exposing his 11-year-old daughter to the practices of the ADVENTISTS. He stated he was concerned for the other children in the group because he had heard that the group's leader, VERNON W. HOWELL, aka DAVID KORESH, had announced a plan for mass self-destruction. He also indicated that he had reported this to the FBI but that "they have offered no confirmation of action." By airtel dated 5/12/92, San Antonio advised that it is currently investigating the possibility that HOWELL may be planning a mass murder-suicide event. Also, allegations have been received that HOWELL has been holding members of the sect under conditions which may constitute violations of Federal laws pertaining to involuntary servitude or slavery. San Antonio's investigation is based upon a complaint received from Congressman Fred Upton, and the allegations furnished in Senator Riegler's communication are essentially the same as those provided by Congressman Upton. Based on available information, Bufiles contain no information regarding [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] Detroit indices were also searched, and only two 502 references were found on a VERNON W. HOWELL; however, they had been destroyed. Neither Detroit nor San Antonio has any record of having been contacted by [REDACTED] Interim reply sent by CAO 4/29/92. Final reply discussed with SSA [REDACTED] CID.

APPROVED:

Director
Dep. Dir.
Asst. Dir.
Asst. Dir.

Adm. Serv.
Crim. Inv.
Ident.
Info. Mgmt.
Inspection
Intell.

Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Tech. Serv.
Training
Off. of EEO

Off. of Liaison
Off. of Public Affs.
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.